PSY-ZING UP 2012'S HEADLINERS

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SASKATOON metro®

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Baby boy rings in 2013

Bundle of joy. Title of New Year's infant takes parents by surprise

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Weighing in at seven pounds and 13 ounces, Boston Joseph Paquette takes the title of Saskatoon's 2013 New Year's baby.

Boston was born at 2:31 a.m. on New Year's Day and his parents, Andrea Willick, 21, and Jaden Paquette, 19, said they had no idea he would be the city's first baby of 2013.

"I didn't believe it at first," said Willick. "Because (he) was born at 2:30 a.m. I thought the first baby would have been born earlier, but they told us and I didn't believe it. Jaden had to tell me again later."

Paquette chimed in, saying, "It was definitely quite exciting. It's something interesting. You look at it every year and it's pretty far-fetched for it to happen to you, but as soon as it does, it's definitely quite interesting, for sure."

He motioned to baby Boston, adding, "I think he enjoys it, too."

Willick said she was due by Jan. 3 and though "Boston" isn't making reference to the city, "Joseph" was chosen as the baby's middle name because both parents' fathers share the same middle name.

Jaden Paquette and Andrea Willick pose for a photo with Saskatoon's New Year's baby, Boston Joseph Paquette. Boston was born at 2:31 a.m. on New Year's Day, weighing in at seven pounds and 13 ounces. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Dinner in a cinch

Broccoli pasta is easy to prepare and budget-friendly

PAGE 11

Middle-earth comes to life

A visit to New Zealand is a must for any Tolkien devotee

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Two police cruisers at the 100 Block of Avenue O South on Tuesday morning. Major-crime investigators and the SPS's Forensic Identification Section are currently investigating the city's first homicide of 2013. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

First homicide of 2013 adds to hectic night

'Extremely busy'. Saskatoon Police Service had its hands full on New Year's Eve, says staff sergeant

Quoted

"We had an extremely busy night. At one time, the calls in the queue — the calls waiting for service — built up to 40."

Staff Sgt. Darryl Billett

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Police are investigating Saskatoon's first homicide of 2013.

Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) received a call about an injured man at 12:28 a.m. on New Years Day.

Police, along with MD ambulance, responded to a residence in the 100 Block of Avenue O South and found, upon arrival, a 28-year-old man had been stabbed.

He was taken to Royal University Hospital, where he died as a result of his injuries.

The SPS's major-crime investigators, along with the Forensic Identification Section, have been called out to investigate. No arrests have been made at this time.

Staff Sgt. Darryl Billett of the SPS said the force had its hands full on New Year's Eve.

"We had an extremely busy night," said Billett.

"At one time, the calls in the queue — the calls waiting for service — built up to 40.

"On a normal night, those would be routine calls, but they were noisy parties and that type of thing," he continued.

"But unfortunately, some of those had to wait for a few hours before we could get a car to drive by, but by that time most of those had petered out."

Billett said that, in addition to the homicide, police also responded to an aggravated assault in the form of a stabbing, an accident with injuries and a number of noise complaints.

Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Tradition since 1884. Saskatchewan's lieutenant governor rings in new year

Saskatchewan Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield kept tradition alive on Tuesday at the Lieutenant Governor's New Year's Day Levee.

Schofield met with the public at Government House to ring in the new year in style, as has been tradition since 1884.

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

Court of Appeal

Sask. union loses court battle with Walmart

The United Food and Commercial Workers have lost a battle in their long and ongoing fight to unionize at a Walmart in Weyburn, Sask.

On Monday, the three judges of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal unanimously decided to dismiss the union's appeal regarding decisions by the Saskatchewan Labour Board on the union's accusations of unfair labour practices.

At the same time, the high court upheld a cross-appeal by Walmart, restoring the labour board's ruling in its entirety.

That means that an application to decertify the union will proceed and votes cast by store employees will be counted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Close call

Two young boys recovering after falling through ice on Regina creek

Two young boys had to be rescued after falling through the ice on a creek in Regina.

The mother of one of the boys was nearby and was able to get them out of the freezing, metre-deep water.

Jay O'Connor with the Regina Fire Department says all three were taken to hospital as a precaution.

The boys were eight and nine years old.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CJME

Family left homeless

New Year's Day fire under investigation

A Grandora family is left without a home after a New Year's Day house fire.

At approximately 3:50 p.m. Tuesday Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services dispatched four trucks to a fire south of highway 14 near Grandora — about 25 kilometres west of Saskatoon.

The crews could see heavy smoke from many kilometres away as they approached the scene. Upon arrival they found the house was completely engulfed in flames, with the exception of the attached garage. Crews from the Saskatoon and Delisle fire departments worked for well over an hour to get the blaze under control.

Initial damage is estimated at $300,000. The fire will be investigated by the Provincial Fire Commissioners Office. METRO

An Ivory Coast soldier stands next to the belongings of people involved in a deadly stampede in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. At least 61 people were killed after a New Year's Eve fireworks display. EMANUEL EKRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stampede after fireworks kills 61

New Year's tragedy. Most of those killed in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, were children and teens

A crowd stampeded after leaving a New Year's Eve fireworks show early Tuesday in Ivory Coast's main city, killing 61 people — many of them children and teenagers — and injuring more than 200, rescue workers said.

Thousands had gathered to see the fireworks at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan's Plateau district. It was only the second New Year's Eve fireworks display since peace returned to this West African nation after a bloody upheaval over presidential elections put the nation on the brink of civil war and turned the city into a battle zone.

With 2013 showing greater promise, people were in the mood to celebrate on New Year's Eve. Families brought children and they watched the rockets burst in the nighttime sky. But only an hour into the new year, as the crowds poured onto the Boulevard de la Republic after the show, something caused a stampede, said Col. Issa Sako of the fire department rescue team. How so many deaths occurred on the broad boulevard and how the tragedy started is likely to be the subject of an investigation.

Many of the younger ones in the crowd went down, trampled underfoot. Most of those killed were between 8 and 15 years old.

"The flood of people leaving the stadium became a stampede which led to the deaths of more than 60 and injured more than 200," Sako told Ivory Coast state TV.

Desperate parents went to the city morgue, the hospital and the stadium to try to find missing children.

State TV showed a woman sobbing in the back of an ambulance; another was bent over on the side of the street, apparently in pain; and another, barely conscious and wearing only a bra on her upper body, was hoisted by rescuers. There were also scenes of small children being treated in a hospital. One boy grimaced in pain and a girl with coloured braids in her hair lay under a blanket with one hand bandaged. The death toll could rise, officials said.

The government organized the fireworks to celebrate Ivory Coast's peace, after several months of political violence in early 2011 following disputed elections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing children

"I have just seen all the bodies, but I cannot find my son.... I don't know what to do."

Mamadou Sanogo, who was searching for his nine-year-old son, Sayed, at the morgue

West Bank

Undercover raid leads to clashes

An arrest raid by undercover Israeli soldiers disguised as vegetable vendors ignited rare clashes in the northern West Bank on Tuesday, residents said, leaving at least eight Palestinians wounded.

The clashes began early Tuesday after disguised Israeli forces arrested one man. Regular army forces then entered the town, prompting youths to hurl rocks to try to prevent more arrests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retaliation? Gunmen kill 5 female teachers, 2 aid workers in Pakistan

Gunmen sprayed a van carrying employees from a community centre with bullets Tuesday, killing five female teachers and two aid workers, but sparing a child.

The director of the group that the seven worked for says he suspects it may have been the latest in a series of attacks targeting anti-polio efforts in Pakistan. Some militants allege the vaccine is intended to make Muslim children sterile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani driver lies in hospital. MOHAMMAD SAJJAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Age test to decide if suspected rapist can face murder charge

India. Prosecutors seek death penalty for five other suspects held in rape and murder case

A bone test is being conducted to confirm the age of a young suspect in custody in the fatal assault and gang rape of a woman on a bus in India's capital, while prosecutors will seek the death penalty for five other men arrested with him, police said Tuesday.

The six will be formally charged Thursday on accusations that they kidnapped, gang-raped and murdered the 23-year-old woman in New Delhi on Dec. 16, a police spokesman said.

Outraged Indians have been demanding the death penalty for the six men, holding demonstrations almost every day. Murder is punishable by death and rape by life imprisonment. But those below 18 years of age cannot be prosecuted for murder.

Another officer said a bone test is being conducted to determine if one suspect is indeed a juvenile. If the test determines he is 18 years or older, he will be treated as an adult, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Too often ignored

Activists hope the assault will shatter taboos and make authorities take such cases more seriously.

- Police often refuse to hear complaints and even accuse victims of inviting male attention.
- Families also dissuade victims from coming forward in the belief that it will ruin their reputations.

The gang rape and killing of a student has set off an impassioned debate about what India needs to do to prevent another tragedy. DAR YASIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police ID some victims in B.C.-bound bus crash

The crash site near Deadman Pass. OREGON STATE POLICE HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigators in Oregon are trying to piece together the final moments before a Vancouver-bound tour bus carrying 48 people careened down a steep hillside, ejecting some passengers and killing nine.

Police said Monday they weren't sure how fast the bus was travelling on a partly icy highway in a rural mountain pass east of Pendleton, Ore.

Oregon State Police identified one of the victims as a 57-year-old Washington man. Authorities said Dale William Osborn was killed in Sunday's crash and his wife Sue Osborn remained hospitalized.

His daughter, Jennifer Sherman, said she was told her father was hit in the head by a rock while her mother was thrown into a river bed.

A list of injured released by police named seven Canadian residents, including the driver, identified as 54-year-old Haeng Kyu Hwang of Vancouver.

State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings said it could take a month or more to determine whether the driver will face any charges.

Police said they were working with the Korean Consulate to identify other victims. They confirmed 39 people were transported for treatment of injuries and at least 14 of them remained in hospital.

The bus was travelling westbound in the left lane when it hit a concrete barrier, veered across both westbound lanes and went through the guardrail before plunging about 60 metres down the embankment, Hastings said. The National Transportation Safety Board said the bus rolled at least once.

When the tour bus came to a rest, terrified passengers looked for their loved ones.

"Some mothers screamed to find their son or daughter," said Jaemin Seo, a 23-year-old Korean student studying in Vancouver.

Seo said he was awakened by screaming and was ejected from a broken window as the bus careened down the hill. He suffered a broken ankle and a gash in his arm.

The crash occurred near a spot called Deadman Pass, at the top of a steep, 11-kilometre descent from the Blue Mountains.

Rescuers faced the challenge of bringing survivors up a steep cliff, Pendleton Fire Chief Gary Woodson said. They descended the hill and used ropes and baskets to help retrieve people from the wreckage in freezing weather.

Some survivors were carried on backboards by six or eight rescuers. Others were hoisted in baskets, and an all-terrain vehicle arrived toward the end. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City

Woman killed by subway train on New Year's Day

New York City police say a young woman stumbling around on a subway platform not far from Times Square fell onto the tracks and was killed by a train.

The accident happened before dawn on New Year's Day at a station just one stop from where revellers gather in Times Square to celebrate at midnight. Police say the victim was in her 20s. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Full recovery expected

Hillary Clinton on blood thinners for clot in her head

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues to recover in a New York hospital where she's being treated for a blood clot in her head.

Her doctors say blood thinners are being used to dissolve the clot and are confident she will make a full recovery. Clinton didn't suffer a stroke or neurological damage from the clot that formed after she suffered a concussion during a fainting spell at her home, doctors said in a statement Monday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Clinton, 65, was admitted to New York-Presbyterian Hospital on Sunday when the clot turned up on a followup exam on the concussion, Clinton spokesman Phillipe Reines said.

Clinton returned to the U.S. from a trip to Europe, then fell ill with a stomach virus in early December that left her severely dehydrated.

Her condition worsened when she fainted, fell and suffered a concussion while at home alone in mid-December as she recovered from the virus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Molten money

Bank hushes talk of melting bills

Disclosing details of behind-the-scenes discussions about tales of melting banknotes could endanger national security or international relations, says Canada's central bank.

In response to a formal request from The Canadian Press, the Bank of Canada released 134 pages of internal records — almost completely blanked out — concerning allegations its new polymer bills melted in the scorching summer sun.

The bank began issuing $100 polymer banknotes in late 2011, saying they were harder to counterfeit than paper notes and would last much longer.

Unconfirmed reports of cooked currency emerged in July when a Kelowna, B.C., bank teller said she had heard of cases in which several bills had melted together inside a car.

Soon after, a photo of scorched $100 bills surfaced in Ontario — purportedly after they were stored in a metal can next to a baseboard heater.

The bank swiftly denied that its new bills could be affected by heat in these ways. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fiscal-cliff deal passes in late-night vote

Washington, D.C. Rare New Year's Day session ends successfully after Senate and House OK compromise bill

Past its own New Year's deadline, a weary Congress sent U.S. President Barack Obama legislation to avoid a national fiscal cliff of middle-class tax increases and spending cuts late Tuesday night in the culmination of a struggle that strained America's divided government to the limit.

The bill's passage on a bipartisan 257-167 vote in the House sealed a hard-won political triumph for the president less than two months after he secured re-election while calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

Moments later, Obama strode into the White House briefing room and declared, "Thanks to the votes of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, I will sign a law that raises taxes on the wealthiest 2 per cent of Americans while preventing tax hikes that could have sent the economy back into recession."

He spoke with Vice-President Joe Biden at his side, a recognition of the former senator's role as the lead Democratic negotiator in final compromise talks with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In addition to neutralizing middle-class tax increases and spending cuts taking effect with the new year, the legislation will raise tax rates on incomes over $400,000 for individuals and $450,000 for couples. That was higher than the thresholds of $200,000 and $250,000 that Obama campaigned for. But remarkably, in a party that swore off tax increases two decades ago, dozens of Republicans supported the bill at both ends of the Capitol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Online

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Sen. John Barrasso, left, R-Wyo., talks with Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, holding up his watch, after a vote on the fiscal cliff Tuesday on Capitol Hill. The Senate and House passed legislation early New Year's Day to neutralize a fiscal-cliff combination of across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that kicked in at midnight. ALEX BRANDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Executive pay

Top CEOs earn average of $7.7M, think-tank says

By the end of the lunch hour on Jan. 2, the highest-paid chief executive officers in Canada will have earned as much as the average Canadian makes all year, a new survey of CEO pay shows.

The top 100 CEOs in Canada earned $7.7 million on average in 2011, according to Ottawa-based think-tank the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. In comparison, the average industrial wage was $45,488. The research is based on publicly available documents.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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YOLO, SO IT'S TIME TO RETIRE THESE CLICHÉS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

How many times over the past year have you heard the term "double down"?

If you answered, "Too many," you probably feel much the same way about other misused and abused words and phrases of 2012, including, but not restricted to: Fiscal cliff, trending, passion, spoiler alert, bucket list, superfood and the now unavoidable YOLO (you only live once).

These and others turned up on this year's Lake Superior State University's 2013 List of Banned Words. When you're only a minor seat of higher learning in the snowbelt — and not Harvard — you need to come up with a shtick to get noticed.

Back in 1975, some PR genius at LSSU came up with the idea of an annual list of words that need to be banned. Every year, the university publishes a selection of words and phrases compiled from the submissions of grumpy wordsmiths across North America, and every year, the news services cover it as if it's actually news. Of course, "wordsmith" made the list one year, but, like most of the other words on the list, people just keep on using them … until they don't.

An aptitude for platitudes

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF.

The list is more important now than ever as the alarming proliferation of bloggers who feed off other bloggers has led to the near-complete eradication of original thought, as everyone doubles down on the trending slang.

It's like you belong to a club, and the only requirement for membership is that you have to use the trendy word before your mother texts it to her BFF (previously banned abbreviation for best friend forever). If you continue to use it after that, you earn the scorn of the haters, but I'm sure everyone else thinks you're terribly trending.

The problem with "trending," according to its nominators, is that it's not up to the task: Trending which way? Up? Down? Out?

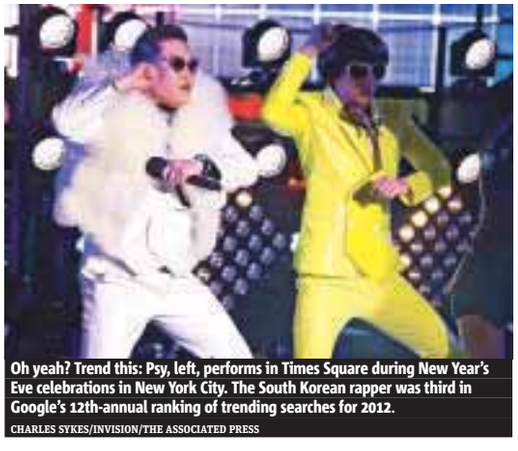
The problem with the fiscal cliff is obvious. Talk about a lazy reference to the worst financial crisis of the century to date. But instead of working hard to understand it, all of us lemmings prefer to roll it up and package it in a neat phrase that we can take with us as we go over it.

"Double down" is particularly odious. It allows you to pretend you're a real riverboat gambler, comfortable with high-risk blackjack strategies, when you don't know jack about doubling down or hitting me up or whatever.

One of my faves this year is "passion," as in "That's my passion," justifying some inane or inherently dangerous practice you're currently enthusiastic about. "Passion" goes well with "fruit" and "Easter," but otherwise should be avoided as overkill.

Just because YOLO doesn't mean you should give in to your passion for clichés.

Just sayin'.



Oh yeah? Trend this: Psy, left, performs in Times Square during New Year's Eve celebrations in New York City. The South Korean rapper was third in Google's 12th-annual ranking of trending searches for 2012.
CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow on the Mediterranean

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distinct society

From Russia with love of culture

The children of immigrants from the former Soviet Union attend a ballet class in Lod, central Israel. The Soviet state crumbled 20 years ago, and in the aftermath, more than one million of its citizens took advantage of Jewish roots to emigrate to Israel. Some prominent ballet dancers were among them, forming ballet schools and continuing a dance culture highly regarded in their mother country.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Growing influence

3rd

Israel has the world's third-largest Russian-speaking community outside of the former Soviet Union, after the U.S. and Germany. Today, Russian-speaking émigrés and their children occupy virtually every corner of Israeli society, from academia and technology to the military and politics. Every fourth employee in Israel's flourishing high-tech industry is a Russian-speaking immigrant, as is every other engineer. The world's second-ranked chess master, Belarus-born Boris Gelfand, lives in Israel, and about one-quarter of Israel's Olympic coaches grew up in the former Soviet Union.

Kosher clash

ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An employee of the Mizra pork-processing plant poses with a pig's head in a refrigerated warehouse in Kibbutz Mizra, northern Israel. The Russian immigrant community has increased demand for pork in the country, a non-kosher food rarely eaten by Israeli Jews.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Old country and new

Russian power on the rise

By virtue of their sheer numbers in a country of eight million people, the Russian population has transformed Israel. In parts of the country, it's hard to find a single Hebrew sign in a sea of Cyrillic. Shopkeepers address customers in Russian and stores are amply stocked with red caviar and vodka. Russian pop beats thump at bars, and in some homes, people are as likely to be hunched over a chessboard as they are a computer keyboard.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How long could you survive in your house if there was a severe natural disaster?

Twitter

@michaelZdunich: Listning to "Running Back To Saskatoon" — By '#TheGuessWho'! Perty awesome song :p I <3 Saskatoon! :)

@DLLiong: The Saskatoon Blades defeated the Medicine Hat Tigers 7-2 on Tuesday. G Patrick Johnson recorded his first career WHL victory. #WHL

@asiaodne: What's with this warm weather in saskatoon?! #saskatchewanweather

@LaurenKrugel: Sorry Saskatoon, but I am not loving your airport right now. Mostly because my comfy bed is still so very far away. #yycorbust

@mcf88: I'd be perfectly content not leaving Saskatoon. Kick ass city. Best friend I could ask for. The most perfect New Years. @nlwegner

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DVD review

Looper

Director. Rian Johnson

Stars. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis, Emily Blunt

Looper is a real head flip of a time trip, definitely not your usual ray gun routine, which is why it was chosen as the gala opener for this year's TIFF.
Skillfully bending genres since he first smashed with Brick in 2005, Rian Johnson puts that film's star, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, into an identity crisis sci-fi thriller set in the Kansas of 2044.
JGL plays Joe, a "looper" (hit man) working for innovative mobsters from the year 2074, who use a time machine to send their victims back three decades for untraceable bullets and burning.
Fast cash is just a shot away for ice-cool Joe and his blunderbuss – until a new crime kingpin decides to "close the loop" and the mirror threatens.
Bruce Willis and Emily Blunt co-star in this future shocker that is smarter than most, at least until the novelty wears thin.
Extras include deleted scenes, making-of featurettes and feature commentary by Rian Johnson, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Emily Blunt.
PETER HOWELL

Horror icon Leatherface returns to hunt unsuspecting teenagers in the latest installment of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre series, Texas Chainsaw 3D. HANDOUT

Carving out a killer franchise — in 3D

Horror. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre's Leatherface has been terrifying audiences for more than 30 years

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Two far-flung events inspired director Tobe Hooper to write The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, the down-and-dirty 1974 indie film that spawned sequels, prequels and this weekend's splashy 3D remake — the imaginatively titled Texas Chainsaw 3D.

In November 1957, police raided the home of Plainfield, Wis., farmer Ed Gein, uncovering gruesome evidence that would lead to charges of murder and body snatching.

After two trials, he spent the rest of his life in a mental facility, but his story would go on to inspire three characters– Norman Bates from Psycho, Buffalo Bill from The Silence of the Lambs and one other that would serve as the basis for six films.

Gunnar Hansen, who played Leatherface in Texas Chainsaw Massacre, says Hooper and co-writer Kim Henkel based the character of the hooded chainsaw killer on Gein.

"When they set out to write this movie," he said, "they decided to have a family of killers who had some of the characteristics of Gein: the skin masks, the furniture made from bones, the possibility of cannibalism."

Hooper adds the story was also partially inspired by "the massacres and atrocities in the Vietnam War" and a display of chainsaws in the hardware section of a crowded Montgomery Ward's department store.

"The idea popped," he remembered. "I said, 'Ooh, I know how I could get out of this place fast — if I just start one of these things up and make that sound.'"

That nerve-jangling noise — the revving of a chainsaw — has been the soundtrack of terror ever since. The original is an atmospheric gem, a white-knuckle movie that made Leatherface the first icon of modern horror.

The apron-wearing cannibal has appeared in five more films — most of which don't veer too far from the original plot line of unsuspecting kids falling prey to a family of demented, cannibalistic inbreds.

There's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2, starring Dennis Hopper, Leatherface: TCM III, TCM: The Next Generation (starring the then-unknown Matthew McConaughey and Renée Zellweger), 2003's The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, TCM: The Beginning and the new 3D version.

Leatherface's scares don't always happen on screen, however. At the Kingsway Theatre in Toronto, the flick inspired audience participation when someone dressed in a butcher's outfit ran down the aisle brandishing a real, revving chainsaw.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Top 5 pop culture moments of 2012

Entertainment. From "Hey, sexy lady" to saying goodbye to an icon, Metro looks back at some of the year's biggest moments.

Top 5

1. Whitney Houston dies.
2. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes divorce.
3. Kristen Stewart cheats on Robert Pattinson.
4. PSY takes over the world with Gangnam Style.
5. The royals are having a baby.

Pop icon Whitney Houston was only 48 years old when she died on Feb. 11. GETTY IMAGES

•"**Whitney Houston**'s death in February was a tragic event that symbolically set the tone for a year where the old guard in soul and R&B music gave way to a younger generation, as hip-hop kids like **Frank Ocean, Miguel** and **The Weeknd** basically reinvented the genre in 2012." **PAT HEALY**

•"I remember going to a party and it's all anyone could talk about. I mean, we all knew she wasn't doing well, but I guess we didn't realize the extent of her fall from grace until it was too late." **DOROTHY ROBINSON**

•"Our 'Kristen, how could you?' cover is blown-up and hanging on the wall next to my desk. Every day I ask myself the same thing." **MEREDITH ENGEL**

•"At the risk of giving this any more ink: **Robert Pattinson**'s hair at least deserves to be cheated on in a proper hotel room." **MONICA WEYMOUTH**

•"I can't believe you would vote for Stewart/Pattinson break up when we don't mention 50 Shades. It's bonkers it's not on this list. But maybe it's not because we are all still wondering how such badly written erotica could take off like it did." **DR**

•"I just wanted to say that I think my 2012 approach to the Kardashian family has really worked this year. I vowed at the onset of 2012 to not speak the Kardashian name aloud. And look at how you're not seeing them on quite as many magazine covers in the checkout line. They're not even on this list! It's the power of the cosmic unconscious, people! Yes, the one that they call Kim is doing whatever she can to keep her flicker of fame alight — hiring Kanye West to pretend like he's into her and now pregnant with his child — but in 2013 if we all agree not to speak the name of that family, I think we can finally make them go away forever." **PH**

Kristen Stewart issued a public apology to boyfriend Robert Pattinson when she was caught cheating this summer. GETTY IMAGES

•"I never thought I'd be someone who thinks of themselves as a 'royal fan' but I really dig Kate and William and I'm excited for them." **DR**

•"Agreed! Although I'm probably more on Team Harry. How much do you want that guy's life?" **MW**

Psycho for Psy

"When my mother asked me what K-Pop was, I knew this thing was bigger than all of us. Parents are the best barometer."

Heidi Patalano, on Gangnam Style

Psy GETTY IMAGES

Editor's picks

The Word's Top 5

- 1. Whitney's death
- 2. Fifty Shades phenomenon
- 3. Gangnam Style
- 4. Twilight breakup
- 5. Katie and Tom divorce

I hate to be so morbid that Whitney's death would be the biggest event of the year, but it was just so shocking. Coming in at No. 2 for me is the Fifty Shades of Grey book publishing phenomenon. It's not too often that a book comes along that every single woman, from your housekeeper to your grandmother, has read. Unfortunately, this was that book. It was neat to see Gangnam taking over The Macarena as the biggest dance craze of the century, and it was also neat to see (in pictures) Kristen Stewart's car-seat dalliance. Finally, Tom and Katie's divorce putters in at No. 5. Their split was no surprise, but big enough for a mention. **DOROTHY ROBINSON**

The Word

Our celeb wishes and Twitter dreams for 2013

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Here's some New Year's resolutions we wish the stars would aim for:

• **Katy Perry:** "I will stop dating bad boys with stringy black hair."

• **Lindsay Lohan**: "I will try to make my probation officer's 2013 as painless as possible."

• **Prince Harry:** "I will try to have more fun in 2013."

• **Psy:** "I will not make a 'serious' album. Not yet, at least."

• **Kristin Stewart:** "I will smile."

• **Rihanna:** "I will stop dating Chris Brown once and for all."

Twitter hopes

These stars left Twitter — some for good reasons, some for bad — in 2012. Here's some Twitter accounts we wish would come back in 2013:

@adele
The singer left Twitter after receiving nasty death threats about her newborn son from Twitter trolls. It would be great for her to come back so we can show her that humanity isn't awful.

@KanyeWest
"BE BACK SOON" was the last thing posted on the singer's epic Twitter feed, which gave us such gems as "I just threw some kazoo on this b-tch" and "Sometimes I get emotional over fonts." Wherefore art thou, Kanye?

@CharlieSheen
After he accidentally tweeted his phone number in an attempt to contact Justin Bieber (hahahahahaha), Sheen deleted his Twitter account. Come and remind us what all the fuss was about.

The Real Middle-earth

With last month's world premiere of Peter Jackson's The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in New Zealand, a trip to experience Middle-earth is likely on the bucket list for many fans. Below are some of the top New Zealand tourism activities focused on The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

RUTH ATHERLEY
life@metronews.ca

Regional highlights

Hamilton Waikato

Hobbits have roamed the hills at Hobbiton movie set, near Matamata, where The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit Trilogies were filmed.

Christchurch Canterbury

The Canterbury region was used for numerous locations for The Lord of the Rings Trilogy and the Mount Cook region has been used again for The Hobbit.

Aoraki Mount Cook (3,754 metres) is New Zealand's highest mountain and means cloud piercer.

Central Otago

Central Otago, another picturesque filming location and popular with vacationers, is renowned for being the hottest, coldest and driest part of New Zealand. It is also New Zealand's most inland region. **RUTH ATHERLEY**

See for yourself

Air New Zealand (airnewzealand.ca) has direct non-stop flights from Vancouver to Auckland and offers flights from many other North American cities. For more information about New Zealand, please visit: NewZealand.com.

- Hobbiton movie set tours – hobbitontours.com.

Hobbiton

Near Matamata, a picturesque town just two and a half hours from Auckland (New Zealand's largest city and the gateway to Middle-earth), visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the Hobbiton movie set.

Hidden in the magical, spectacularly green, rolling hills of the area is Hobbiton, the film set made famous in The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Along with 37 Hobbit holes, fans can check out the Green Dragon Inn, The Mill and other structures used in the upcoming films. Not only has Hobbiton gained fame as a movie set, it is also a working farm experience, café and conference facility.

It's definitely a must for anyone who wants to truly experience the "Shire" when in New Zealand.

Hobbiton movie set in Matamata. FLICKR: ARBRON

Mountain bike skippers canyon track, Queenstown. FLICKR: TRAILSOURCE.COM

Four-wheel drive safari tour in Queenstown

Any reason to visit Queenstown, on New Zealand's South Island, is a good one, and a four-wheel drive adventure through Middle-earth gives visitors a great reason to go.

The Queenstown area was prominently featured in the filming of The Lord of the Rings trilogy and Nomad Safaris offers two different tours designed specifically for fans.

The guides are definitely one of the highlights of the tour — many were extras in the films. They know, and are happy to share, all of the local gossip about what the stars of the movies did while they were filming in the area.

Wellington

Everyone who goes to Wellington falls in love with the fun, foodie and fashion-focused city that sits at the southern tip of the North Island.

Known to many as "Wellywood" because of its flourishing film industry, fans can experience the ultimate Middle-earth full-day tour with Wellington Rover Tours — where fans can follow in the footsteps of Hobbits, and spend the day learning film secrets. Wellington also boasts the Weta Cave, which screens a behind-the-scenes look at Weta and interviews co-founder Peter Jackson, among others, has a mini-museum with some of the characters and features props and displays from The Lord of the Rings films.

Wellington. FLICKR: ASGW

Can you imagine a better setting than this for the big day? HANDOUT

Dreaming of saying your vows under the Caribbean sun?

Destination wedding.
A few things to keep in mind if you're looking for a stress-free ceremony

LOREN CHRISTIE
life@metronews.ca

A growing number of brides and grooms are heading to tropical climes in the hopes of having memorable nuptials.

Before you book your destination wedding, there are a few things to bear in mind.

The costs can vary widely depending on the time and place you get married.

The proximity and easy flight access into Cuba, Dominican Republic and Mexico's Mayan Riviera tend to mean there are better deals to be found in these locales. If your dates are flexible, consider holding off until the April shoulder season and you will fare much better with accommodation rates.

Look into any special regulations. Many of the popular Caribbean destinations require you to be on the island anywhere from two to five days prior to the ceremony.

Typically, you will also need a special marriage license in the local language that could cost several hundred dollars depending on the island, and you may be required to get a blood test. Both future spouses must present proof of citizenship of their resident country.

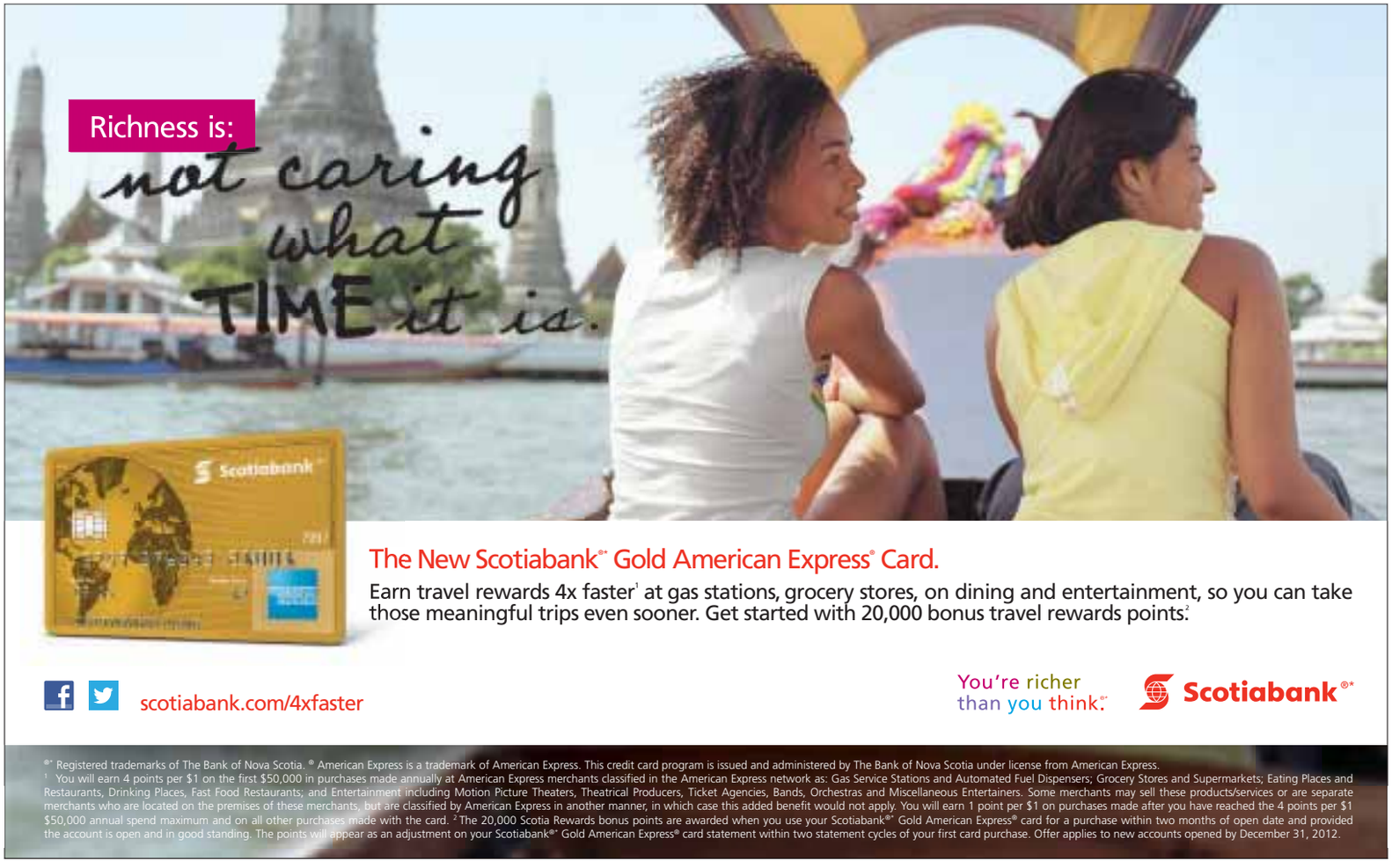
Hire a local wedding specialist. Bridezilla or not, it can be hard planning a wedding from afar.

A good planner can be your liaison between all the legal bits that need to happen and finding the best and most reliable vendors, from the florist to the photographer to the caterer. At the very least, look at booking a resort that offers a pre-set wedding package that includes a handful of these elements, such as a justice of the peace, document arrangements and a special location for your ceremony.

Be prepared for bathing suit-clad onlookers. Whether you get married on a resort or at the beach, privacy is something that is hard to guarantee. If you want your ceremony to feel a little more intimate, consider an island like Anguilla, which allows foreigners to get married in local churches.

Consider your guests. If you are hoping loved ones will be coming along to share your big day, the cost of the vacation does matter. Negotiate with your resort or tour operator for a group discount. Also, tell people not to bring gifts, the cost of the trip is enough.

You don't want to be bringing a toaster home on the plane anyway.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[1] You will earn 4 points per $1 on the first $50,000 in purchases made annually at American Express merchants classified in the American Express network as: Gas Service Stations and Automated Fuel Dispensers; Grocery Stores and Supermarkets; Eating Places and Restaurants, Drinking Places, Fast Food Restaurants; and Entertainment including Motion Picture Theaters, Theatrical Producers, Ticket Agencies, Bands, Orchestras and Miscellaneous Entertainers. Some merchants may sell these products/services or are separate merchants who are located on the premises of these merchants, but are classified by American Express in another manner, in which case this added benefit would not apply. You will earn 1 point per $1 on purchases made after you have reached the 4 points per $1 $50,000 annual spend maximum and on all other purchases made with the card. [2] The 20,000 Scotia Rewards bonus points are awarded when you use your Scotiabank®* Gold American Express® card for a purchase within two months of open date and provided the account is open and in good standing. The points will appear as an adjustment on your Scotiabank®* Gold American Express® card statement within two statement cycles of your first card purchase. Offer applies to new accounts opened by December 31, 2012.

Broccoli Pasta does double duty as a warming dish and a cash saver

Whenever you have too little time and too few ingredients on hand — or when you've been eating too much meat — a great alternative is some Broccoli Pasta.

It's delicious, healthy, inexpensive and easy to prepare. The recipe, in fact, is a cinch, consisting of just a few ingredients — pasta, chicken broth, Parmigiano-Reggiano, olive oil and a large head of the namesake crucifer.

Another of this recipe's charms is its flexibility. You can swap in vegetable broth for chicken broth, spaghetti for the angel hair pasta, and any other grated hard cheese for the Parmigiano-Reggiano. Sometimes you can even lose the broccoli in favour of roasted cauliflower or Brussels sprouts.

But what makes the dish so popular is its comfort factor. It can be served soupy, so you can slurp the chicken broth along with the strands of pasta. You can also make sure there's some crusty bread within easy reach, which helps to mop up the broth not captured with a spoon.

This dish is so economical it's almost ecological.

Ingredients

- 1 large head broccoli (about 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds)
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 1 to 2 tsp red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 1 quart low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 lb whole-wheat capellini pasta
- 1 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

1. Heat oven to 450 F. Position one of the racks in top third of oven.

2. Bring pot of water to a boil.

3. Cut broccoli, including the stems, into 2-inch pieces. Peel any thick stem pieces to remove the thick skin.

4. On rimmed baking sheet, arrange broccoli in single layer. Drizzle with oil then sprinkle with salt to taste and toss well.

Cold Weather Broccoli Pasta

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Place on top oven rack and roast for 10 minutes, or until broccoli is crisp tender and slightly brown at the edges. Transfer the broccoli to a large skillet, add the pepper flakes and the chicken broth, then bring to a boil over medium-high heat.

5. When water in large pot comes to boil, add a hefty pinch of salt and the pasta. Stir and cook 2 minutes, or until the pasta is limp but not quite cooked through. Drain pasta and transfer it to the broccoli pan. Simmer for 2 minutes, or until the pasta is al dente. Stir in the Parmigiano-Reggiano and salt to taste. Ladle into shallow soup bowls and serve. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON IS THE AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Drink of the Week

Winter Wind

This drink contains traditional holiday spices and ingredients that remind recipe creator Nishan Nepulongoda of festive seasons.

"The sweetness of cinnamon mixed with fresh lime citrus creates a balanced taste that has an added hint of spice when topped with the ginger beer," says Nepulongoda, a mixologist at Blowfish Restaurant in Toronto.

- 60 ml (2 oz) gin
- 30 ml (1 oz) fresh lime juice
- 30 ml (1 oz) simple syrup
- Pinch ground cinnamon powder
- Ice cubes
- Ginger beer
- Lime slice, for garnish

Shake all ingredients with ice. Pour into a rocks glass with fresh ice. Top up with ginger beer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Lasagna meets Butter Chicken

1. Tandoori marinade: In a bowl, whisk yogurt, lemon juice, tandoori spice blend, fenugreek, salt, pepper and hot pepper flakes until well combined. Add chicken; toss to coat. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate for 8 hours.

2. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Scrape chicken onto rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake in centre of oven 25 minutes or until cooked through. Remove from oven; let stand 15 minutes. Cut chicken into 5-mm (1/4-inch) cubes. Place in bowl, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.

3. Butter chicken sauce: In saucepan, heat olive oil and butter over medium-high heat. Add cumin seeds; toast, stirring frequently, 2 mins. Add onion, garlic and turmeric; cook, stirring frequently, for about 5 mins. or until onions soften. Add ginger, tandoori spice blend and hot pepper flakes; cook, stirring, for another 2 mins. Stir in water, tomatoes, cream, fenugreek and sugar. Bring to gentle simmer, stirring occasionally. Cook 20 mins. Add cooked chicken cubes; simmer another 15 mins or until sauce thickens. Set aside.

4. Meanwhile, in saucepan, heat olive oil and butter over med-high heat. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring frequently, for 5 mins. or until onion softens. Add mushrooms and green pepper; cook, stirring, 10 mins. or until veggies are soft. Add salt, garam masala and black pepper; cook 2 mins. Set aside.

5. To assemble lasagna: Heat oven to 200 C (400 F). Spread one-third of butter chicken sauce over bottom of 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish. Arrange 5 noodles over top. Dollop with ricotta; top with vegetables. Arrange 5 more noodles over top. Spread another one-third sauce all over. Sprinkle with half of mozzarella. Top with remaining noodles. Spread remaining sauce all over. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella. Cover loosely with foil.

6. Bake in centre of oven 45 mins.; remove foil. Sprinkle with basil. Return to oven for another 5 mins. or until bubbling and golden on top. Let stand 10 mins. before serving. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RECIPE COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK CANADA**

This recipe serves 12. COURTESY OF THE FOOD NETWORK

Ingredients

Tandoori Marinade
- 250 ml (1 cup) plain yogurt
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) tandoori spice blend
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) dried fenugreek
- 5 ml (1 tsp) kosher salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 8 boneless skinless chicken thighs

Butter Chicken Sauce
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 5 ml (1 tsp) unsalted butter
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cumin seeds
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced red onion
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) minced garlic
- 5 ml (1 tsp) turmeric
- 5 ml (1 tsp) minced ginger root
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) tandoori spice blend
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 1 can (796 ml/28 oz) crushed tomatoes
- 325 ml (1 1/3 cups) 35 per cent whipping cream
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) fenugreek, crushed
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) sugar

Vegetables
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) unsalted butter
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced red onion
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced garlic
- 500 ml (2 cups) sliced cremini mushrooms
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced sweet green pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) kosher salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) garam masala
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) black pepper

Lasagna
- 15 oven-ready dry lasagna noodles
- 250 ml (1 cup) ricotta cheese
- 500 ml (2 cups) grated mozzarella cheese
- 4 basil leaves, shredded

Penne Pasta Casserole. The comfort food fix

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (177 C).

2. Cook pasta according to package directions; drain.

3. Brown meat with onions in large skillet; drain. Stir in Hunt's Diced Tomatoes with their liquid, the tomato paste and water; cook until heated through, stirring occasionally.

4. In large bowl, add pasta, tomato and beef mixture, and 2 cups of cheese; toss to coat.

5. Spray 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Spoon mixture into dish; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 25 minutes, or until casserole is heated through and cheese is melted. **NEWS CANADA/ HUNT'S**

Ingredients

- 3 cups dry penne pasta, uncooked
- 1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped (1 cup)
- 1 can (398 ml) Hunt's Diced Tomatoes
- 1 can (5.5 fl oz) Hunt's Tomato Paste
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 cups (12 oz) shredded Mozzarella cheese
- Non-stick cooking spray

Are you getting all a-Twitter about social media? Link on the bright side

Success on a screen. The web world is complex, but connecting is key to climbing the job ladder

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Getting involved in a LinkedIn group can help you keep up with new developments in your field while simultaneously networking. But don't just be a name in the group — participate in discussions and offer input. ISTOCK

In this day and age, having an online presence is just as essential to your job search as having an error-free resumé.

However, between LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and Google+ it can be difficult to master how to effectively manage your many online lives.

Once you've upped your Facebook privacy settings as high as they can go, it's pretty easy to learn how to navigate the 'book.

However, mediums like LinkedIn and Twitter can be a bit trickier to grasp, especially for students and recent grads who don't already have built-in professional networks.

Here are a few tips for getting started:

Mastering the Twitterverse

• Begin by listening

Use Twitter's search function to find people and feeds which are of interest to you. Spend some time exploring these outlets and looking at how they are utilizing Twitter.

The best of your brain

> **"Tweet out information your followers will find valuable rather than which nail polish colour or salad dressing you went with today."**
>
> Leah Ruehlicke

• Maintain your humanity

Keep your tweeting tone natural and in your own voice.

The whole point of Twitter is to show who you are and what interests you.

• Make like a pencil and have a point

Share links to relevant articles and express your own views.

Tweet out information your followers will find valuable rather than which nail polish colour or salad dressing you went with today.

• Tweet regularly

Keep your profile current and tweet on a regular basis. This keeps your online presence up to date and will hold the attention of your followers.

That being said, if you have nothing to say, don't feel you have to post.

• Pay it forward

Retweeting the posts of others builds rapport with your followers, sparks conversation and demonstrates to others that you don't think it's all about you — you can appreciate what others have to say as well.

• Be appreciative

Acknowledge retweets by publicly thanking those who share your posts — unless your every tweet gets tweeted 900 times.

Then use some discretion (and probably expect an invitation to appear on The Ellen DeGeneres Show).

• Keep it simple

You only have 140 characters to make your point, so get right to it.

Try using less than the 140 cap in order to make it easier for others to retweet what you have posted.

Pleased to meet you!

Avoid privacy settings

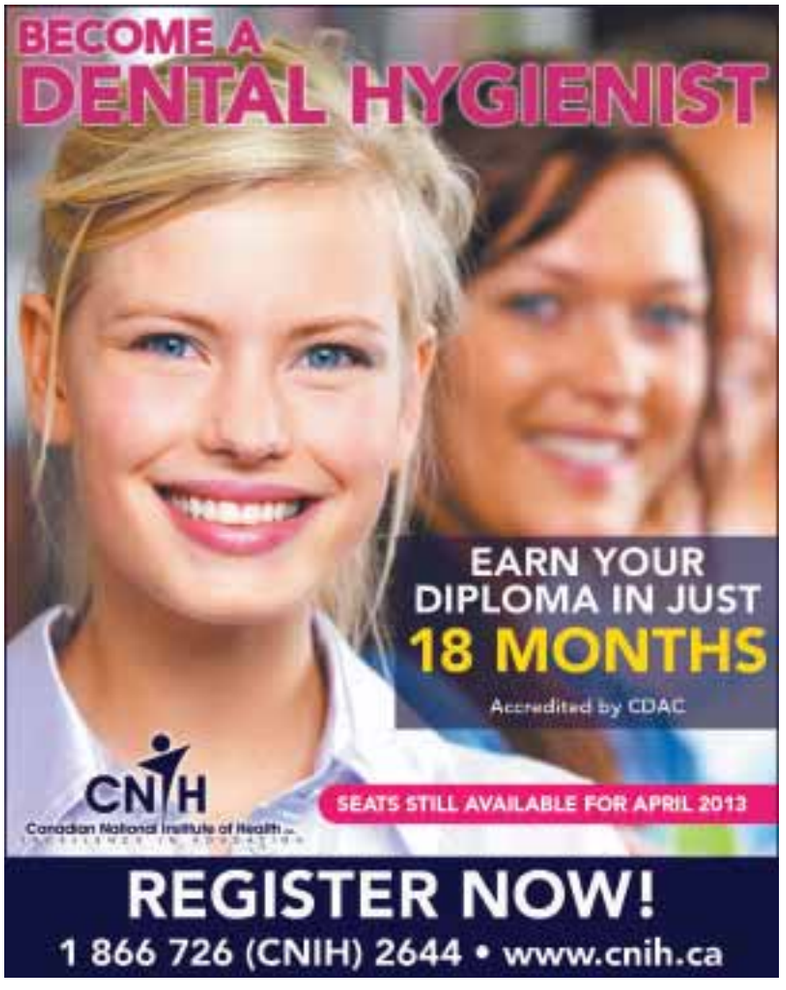
- Keeping an open profile will actually work to your advantage in the world of Twitter.
- Open accounts enable you to connect and share thoughts and ideas more easily with others, which is exactly what Twitter is all about.
- On that note, don't be too open. Twitter is a place for you to solidify yourself as an individual and a professional, not to argue about whose turn it is to do the dishes.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Online and employable

Click boldly through the land of LinkedIn using these simple steps:

- **A full profile is a fulfilling profile.** Provide as much information as you can, including work history, key responsibilities and educational history. Be specific and highlight key accomplishments so as to give others a clear example of the type of work you're capable of doing.
- **It's all about quality, not quantity.** It's easy to aimlessly connect with people in an effort to build up your number of contacts and appear more "popular." Don't invite strangers to your network and don't be offended when those same strangers ignore your requests. Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, your network is only as strong as its weakest connection. It's not just how many people you know, but who these people are.
- **It's not all about you.** Although LinkedIn allows you to request recommendations from your contacts or utilize your network to seek assistance (both of which can be extremely beneficial), you don't want to focus solely on how LinkedIn can further your career. Don't be constantly seeking recommendations or advice, and be ready to pay back favours by providing some advice of your own. Also, always say thank you to those who do provide recommendations or insight to a question you posed.



4 SPORTS

WHL

Kambeitz nets 2 as Blades blaze past Tigers

Adam Kambeitz scored twice as the Saskatoon Blades dominated the Medicine Hat Tigers 7-2 in Western Hockey League action on Tuesday at Credit Union Centre.

The Blades took a commanding 7-0 lead before Medicine Hat finally managed some offence with the game's final two goals late in the third.

Shane McColgan, Josh Nicholls, Lukas Sutter, Tyler Giebel and Brett Stovin also scored for Saskatoon (20-18-1).

Logan McVeigh and Elgin Pearce had goals for the Tigers (16-20-2).

Medicine Hat's offence did all it could against a hot goaltender as Patrick Johnson finished with 38 saves for the Blades.

At the other end of the ice, Marek Langhamer was pulled after allowing three goals on seven shots. He was replaced by Cam Lanigan, who stopped 27-of-31 shots.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NCAA

Stanford ends Rose Bowl drought with win over Wisconsin

Although Stanford didn't score many style points in the 99th Rose Bowl, the Cardinal could celebrate because they didn't let Wisconsin score any points at all after halftime.

Stepfan Taylor rushed for 89 yards and an early touchdown, Kevin Hogan passed for 123 yards, and No. 8 Stanford won its first Rose Bowl since 1972, beating the Badgers 20-14 on Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Team Canada teammates Dougie Hamilton, left, Anthony Camara and Malcolm Subban pretend to bobsleigh during practice on Saturday in Ufa, Russia.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Juniors forge identity half a world away

World juniors. Far from home, Canadian team sticking together on and off the ice

Goaltending coach Ron Tugnutt mused aloud during the Canadian junior hockey team's selection camp in Calgary that travelling 13 time zones to pursue a gold medal might not be a disadvantage for the team.

The world junior hockey championship was held in North America for four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012 in Ottawa, Buffalo, Saskatoon and then jointly in Calgary and Edmonton respectively.

The moment the Canadian team stepped off the ice in those tournaments, their performance was reflected back to them around the clock via wall-to-wall media coverage.

Tugnutt hoped Ufa, Russia, would afford this team some isolation.

"They won't be seeing as much of themselves on TV," he said then. "We're kind of on our own little island out there. I think this will be good for us."

After concluding the preliminary round 4-0 to finish first in Pool B, some Canadian players spoke of the unifying effect of travelling so far from home. They've been abroad together since Dec. 15, when Canada departed Calgary for a pre-competition camp and exhibition games in Finland.

"We had a few days in Vierumaki to definitely grow that bond," captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said. "It's amazing how much we've come together in this tournament on and off the ice."

Canadian coach Steve Spott has observed that his players seem happiest off ice when they're hanging around their hotel together.

"They don't want to leave the hotel," Spott said. "We've had a number of team activities planned, but they enjoy being around each other in the hotel and that, to me, is a sign of a great hockey club."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Now you're into one-game situations and we all know they are very difficult games, but I do like the place our team is in right now and I like the mindset of the group."

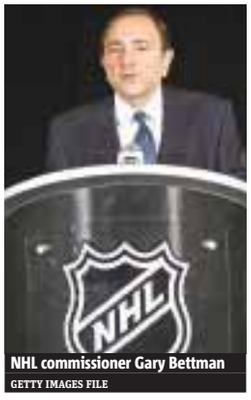
Canadian junior coach Steve Spott

Waiting for their foe

Canada earned a bye to Thursday's semifinal after finishing first in Pool B.

- They await the winner of Wednesday's quarter-final between the Czech Republic and the U.S.

NHL, union on clock to salvage season



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman

GETTY IMAGES FILE

The push toward a deal to save a shortened NHL season continued Tuesday.

The league and union put in a full day of talks with a deadline looming to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

After the NHLPA presented a counter-proposal on Monday, small groups from each side held a conference call early Tuesday afternoon. Another face-to-face meeting was expected at the league office in New York later in the evening.

The talks are being held with an eye on preserving at least a 48-game schedule — the same number that was played following the 1994-95 lockout.

By the numbers

108

There are signs the 108-day lockout is nearing its end. Players who have spent time in Europe are starting to trickle back to North America, including Bruins forward Tyler Seguin and Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who wrote on Twitter that "hopefully I'm coming back for the right reason."

An agreement would need to be in place by Jan. 11 for that to happen.

"What we've said is we need to drop the puck by Jan. 19 if we're going to play a 48-game season," commissioner Gary Bettman said Monday. "We don't think it makes sense to play a season that is any shorter than that."

League officials met well into the night Monday after receiving a new offer from the union. NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr said the union's proposal included movement on key issues, but declined to elaborate.

It came three days after the NHL tabled a new offer that sparked the latest round of talks.

"We covered the range of subjects they covered," said Fehr. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back at the table

The NHL's most recent offer saw it soften demands on new contract rules and included a salary cap of $60 million for the 2013-14 season — a number the union believes is too low.

- While few details of the NHLPA's new proposal are known, commissioner Gary Bettman indicated that it brought attention to the key issues that still need to be addressed.

DRIVE 5

Revving up some auto nostalgia

Danny Koker, the restomodding maestro on Pawn Stars' speed dial, has revved the engine on a spinoff series. On History's Counting Cars (premieres tonight 9 p.m. ET/PT), The Count hunts down classic wheels, fixes 'em up and then either flips them or adds the finished beauties to his personal collection. We sought Koker's counsel on some of the sweetest rides to grace the small and big screen.

MIKE DOJC
drive@metronews.ca

1968 Mustang GT 390 Fastback, Bullitt

You can't picture this car without Steve McQueen behind the wheel. The image of the muted highland green muscle car — with deleted emblems and a blacked out tail panel — burning up the hilly streets of San Francisco in hot pursuit of a jet black Dodge Charger has seared itself into the consciousness of cinephiles and auto enthusiasts alike.

Restoration challenge:
Rust is a common issue and you'll likely have to start with a real beater. "Everybody loves to hot rod old mustangs. Lots of them have been crashed on drag strips and roadrace courses, or somebody's teenage kid has wrapped one around a tree. Good examples are getting hard to find, so you're having to settle," explains Koker, who puts $22,000 into a real hunk of junk and transforms it into a beautiful Bullitt tribute on the debut episode.

Price:
$50 to 60k depending on options.

1961 Ferrari 250 GT California Spyder, Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Car crazed teens drooled on their popcorn over this candy red V12 five-speed aluminum-bodied dream machine when Matthew Broderick took this "so choice" beauty for a spin. "Ironically, the one in the movie was a replica," explains Koker. "(They used) a fiberglass-bodied car on a late model Mustang chassis with a small block Ford 302 motor. To use a real '61 Spyder would've been insane."

Restoration Challenge:
Finding original parts would be almost impossible. But if you have deep pockets, you could go to Italy and have Ferrari re-manufacture whatever you need.

Price:
In 2008, a '61 once owned by the late James Coburn sold for $10.9 million. The actual car from the film sold for a mere fraction of that in 2010, fetching $122,000 in a Bonhams auction, practically double the London auction house's estimate of $45 to 65k.

1969 Dodge Charger, Dukes of Hazzard

The General Lee didn't just give Boss Hogg's flunkies the slip, Chrysler's aerodynamic wild child was designed to lap the competition. Of course, no car could land those ridiculous frame-buckling jumps and drive away unscathed. Nearly 300 Chargers were wrecked over the run of the television series from 1979-1985. "These were really awesome cars with huge engines stuffed into them. You could get a 440 with a six pack (six carburetors), or you could get a hemi. The car was a drag race car right off the showroom floor," says Koker.

Restoration Challenge:
While the parts are out there for old Mopars, they didn't produce as many as other muscle cars from the same period, so they're much more expensive.

Price:
You can build one for $30 to 40k.

1958 Plymouth Fury, Christine

The demonic two-door hardtop was conceived by Chrysler, but made infamous by horror masters Stephen King and John Carpenter, first in print and subsequently on the big screen. The 1983 film turned this proto-muscle car into an icon. "I love that car because it was an oddball, it was not a car that people sought out to collect and restore. I thought it was really cool that that car was selected to be used and that the version in the movie was restored to 100 per cent original condition," says Koker.

Restoration Challenge:
To take it back to the nuts and bolts original, all your parts have to be the real deal. "Everything you do to the interior has to be accurate, the way you detail the engine compartment has to be accurate, and all those things cost extra money," adds Koker.

Price:
You could build one for $50 to 60k.

Q & A. Danny The Count Koker weighs in

Danny Koker
HANDOUT

When Rick and the gang at Pawn Stars need advice on anything with wheels and an engine, they call Danny The Count Koker of Las Vegas' Count Kustoms. On Counting Cars, his spinoff series on History, Koker trolls the streets of Nevada for sweet rides to fix up and then flip, but if he grows too attached they find their way into his expansive personal collection.

You have any tips for first time restorers looking for a project?
Don't get in over your head and pick something that you personally love because you're going to get frustrated and want to throw in the towel somewhere along the line. That's why you gotta pick something that you connect with so you'll stick with the project and see it through to the end. If it's a first time project, pick something simple. Go with an old Mustang, an old Camaro, a '55 Chevy, or something like that where the parts are available and it is not rocket science as far as building it and putting it together.

You knock on doors, stop cars at lights and scout parking lots when you're cruising for cars. Do you think you get better deals looking for cars that don't have for sale signs on them yet?
I believe so. That is my philosophy. It's something that I've been doing for years. In my opinion, if a car has a for sale sign on it, you're already too late. Whoever is selling it has already thought about it, done their research and they know what they want for it. It's probably going to be a little bit tougher to work a deal with somebody like that.

What's your success rate using your bold tactics?
Lots of times when we knock on a door or pull somebody over, or find something in a parking lot, sure I get, "No". It's rare to find somebody to say, "OK, I'll sell you my car." I get the no all the time. But on the rare occasion, you get someone in the right frame of mind and mood. They really haven't given it too much thought and maybe they need a little money right now, and you might be able to work a better deal.

MIKE DOJC

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have been a bit too generous for your own good of late and, not surprisingly, someone has taken advantage of the situation. Now you must take back what was taken from you, plus a little extra for your trouble.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If there is something new you would like to do, something extravagant and exciting, you must stop dreaming about it and get on with it. The Sun in Capricorn urges you to get busy right now — later is too late.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
What happens over the next two or three days will bring the kind of changes that even you feel happy about. You should have realized by now that not all change is bad. Some change is exciting and even inspiring.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are embarking on one of the best times for one-to-one relationships, both personal and professional. Others will go out of their way to help you over the next 24 hours. Go out of your way to enjoy it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Focus on quality work today. You may be tempted to take on more duties and responsibilities but that will inevitably lead to a loss of value. The fewer things you do, the better you will do them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This may be a time of great activity but don't overdo it. Set your sights high today but don't aim for too many things all at the same time. No matter how fit you feel you will burn yourself out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will have to make decisions for other people today. It may worry you that their welfare is in your hands but fate has put you in this position for a reason, so be confident you will make a success of it.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You will face a number of challenges over the next few days and you cannot run away from them. That's good. Your life is in a bit of a rut at the moment and you need something to get you out of it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If someone asks you to take on more work today you must be strong-minded enough to say no. Whatever you might think you owe other people, you owe more to yourself — and nothing matters more than your health.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
There is nothing you cannot achieve if you want it enough. Rarely have the omens been this good, so stop worrying about what the neighbors might think and start living the kind of life you dream of.

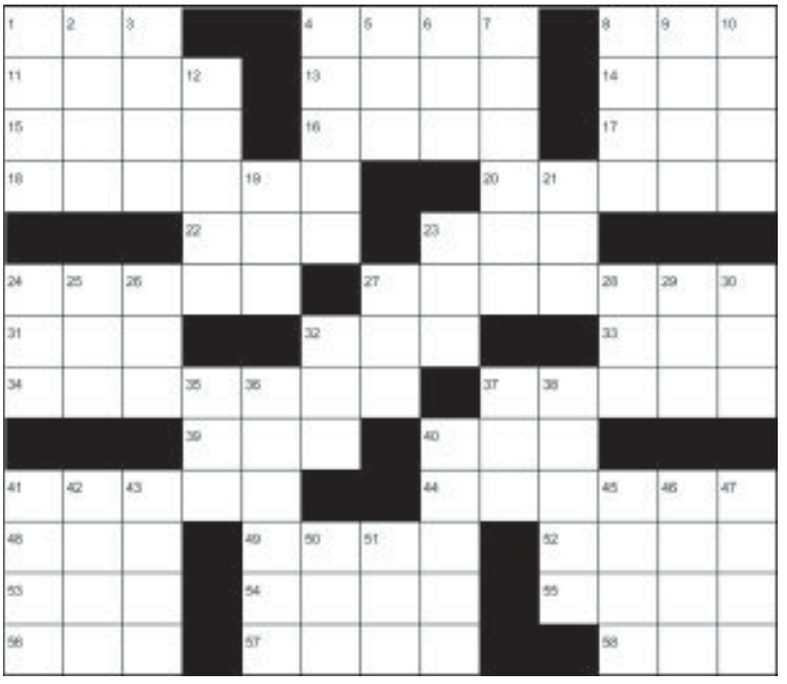
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be tempted to start something new today but the planets indicate it would be wiser, and easier, to focus your energies on finishing what you have already started. Attitude is everything. Think of it as fun.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The planets warn you have only a limited grasp of what is going on at the moment and what others tell you today is needed to complete the picture. Thank them for pointing out what you have missed.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

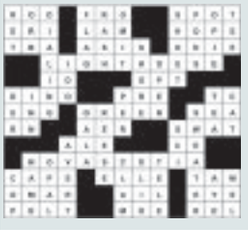
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Light-feather link (2 words)
4. College major
8. Captain's journal
11. Lose one's cool
13. Operatic solo
14. "Cold Mountain" heroine
15. The Munsters' bat
16. Auction word
17. Term of respect
18. Defense mechanism
20. Not now
22. Happy Days hangout
23. Chest muscle, for short
24. Soup server
27. Frontier figure
31. Disney deer
32. – – standstill (2 words)
33. Wide shoe width
34. Be lenient with
37. Aroma
39. Lay eyes on
40. Exclude
41. Book contents
44. Newspaper employee
48. Slippery fish
49. Variety
52. Scotch partner
53. Before, of yore
54. Sign on a door
55. Nudge
56. Fish eggs
57. Snoopy
58. Hospital units (abbr.)

Down
1. Extremely dry
2. Stuffing herb
3. Before long
4. Sends a letter
5. Gallery display
6. Even score
7. Small village
8. Bringing up the rear
9. Cartoon dog
10. Actress Teri of "Tootsie"
12. Courtroom drama
19. Pub offering
21. Pretend
23. Soup vegetable
24. Flower garland
25. Abby's twin sister
26. Family man
27. Sault — Marie
28. Jeans brand
29. Poetic time of day
30. Soak as flax
32. Epoch
35. Benefit
36. Subside
37. Down in the dumps
38. Crunchy
40. Veronica's friend
41. Look closely
42. Flying (prefix)
43. High spirits
45. Ripped
46. Unpleasant smell
47. X-ray dosages
50. Losing tic-tac-toe row
51. Sue Grafton novel: – – for Ricochet (letter and word)

Dec. 21's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Dec. 21's Sudoku

4			3		9			
5	9						4	8
	6			4		9		
	3		1	2				4
		2				7		
1				8	7		5	
		4		1			6	
9	1						2	3
			2		6			7

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2012 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS	$22,388
2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL	$17,388
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2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD	$29,388
2012 HYUNDAI SONATA LTD	$29,388
2010 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL	$11,388
2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA TOURING GL	$18,388
2013 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS	$24,388
2013 HYUNDAI ACCENT GL	$18,388
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